

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
SCIENTIFIC MERIT REVIEW BOARD MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING**

August 28 – 30, 2006

The Scientific Merit Review Board (SMRB) met from August 28 – 30, 2006, for the purpose of reviewing research proposals at the **Hyatt Harborside Hotel, 101 Harborside Drive, Boston, MA 02128.**

On August 28, 2006, the Director's opening session was held from 6:00 p.m. – 7 p.m. to present an overview of HSR&D, communicate changes to the review process and introduce HSR&D staff and the chairperson of each review group.

Six review subcommittees convened on August 29, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and five subcommittees convened on August 30, 2006, from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (6), the meeting was scheduled to be open to the public from 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. on **August 29, 2006.** In accordance with Public Law 92-463 (5 U.S.C. app.2), portions of the meeting concerned with matters exempt from mandatory disclosure were closed to the public.

The following observers were in attendance from the following VA HSR&D Centers:

Boston VA Medical Center

Austin Frakt, PhD
Irene Cramer, PhD
Orna Intrator
B. Price Kerfoot, MD
Stephanie Fonda,
Jillian Shipherd,
David Mohr, PhD
Dawne Vogt, PhD
Jenny Rudolph, PhD
Kacie Kelly, MHS

White River Junction, VT

Alan West, PhD

Bedford VA Medical Center

Stephanie Shimada,

Providence VA Medical Center

Paul A. Pirraglia, MD, MPH

Other observers present were:
Sharmilla Chatterjee, MD, MPH
Nametta Dookeran, MD
Julia Prentice, PhD
Lan Jiang,
David McGee

BUSINESS MEETING (Open to the Public)

1. Projected Dates of Future Meetings

March 5- 9, 2007
August 20 - 24, 2007

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were examined and approved by all chairpersons present at the meeting.

3. Presentations and Discussion

The first one half hour of the meeting on August 29, 2006, was open to the public. The chair or Scientific Review Administrator of each review group presented a brief orientation describing the review process, presentation of the critiques at the meeting, group discussion and scoring of proposals, confidentiality, and conflict of interest guidance.

REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS (Closed to the Public)

Members of the committee reviewed 131 research application proposals in six subcommittees. Representatives from all subcommittees discussed the recommendations of the respective groups on a post-meeting conference call on September 7, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. EST.

Members of the committee left the room when applications from their own institutions were discussed or if other conflicts of interest pertained.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on August 30, 2006.

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.

David Aron, MD, MS
for Sandeep Vijan, MD, MS
Co-chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.

Debra Wallace, PhD, RN
Co-chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.

Ted Speroff, PhD
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.

Sarah Hudson Scholle, Dr.PH
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.

Joseph Westermeyer, PhD
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing summary of the minutes is accurate and complete.

Norman W. Weissman, PhD
Co-Chair, Scientific Merit Review Board

I hereby certify to the best of my
knowledge, the foregoing summary of the
minutes is accurate and complete.

Ronald A. Schuchard, PhD
CoChair, Scientific Merit Review Board